



Calico Mountains Herd Management Area Humboldt and Washoe County, Nevada



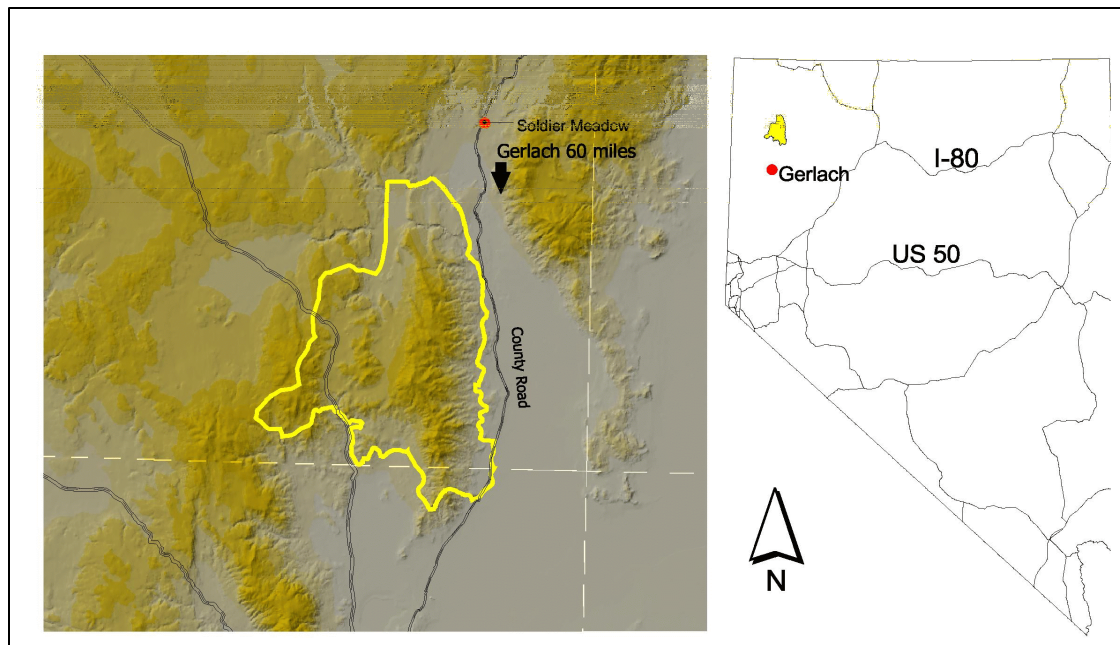
Location/Habitat

The Calico Mountains Herd Management Area (HMA) is located in southwest Humboldt County and east central Washoe County, approximately 110 miles north of Reno, Nevada. The HMA contains approximately 157,166 acres of public and private lands. The terrain consists of steep north-south trending mountains made up of volcanic materials, separated by narrow valleys. Elevations within the HMA range from 4,000 feet along the Black Rock Desert to 8,491 feet at Division Peak. Climate is characterized by warm dry days, cool nights and low yearly precipitation that ranges from 6 to 8 inches at lower elevations to approximately 14 inches at higher elevations. Three wilderness areas are partially contained within the HMA: Calico Mountains, High Rock Lake, and Little High Rock Canyon. The Calico Mountains HMA is located within the Black Rock Desert/High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area.

The area is also utilized by domestic livestock during part of the year and numerous wildlife species. Typical wildlife species found in the area include mule deer, California bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, chukar partridge, coyote, bobcats, and various rodents.

Vegetation

Vegetation varies from salt desert shrub communities along the Black Rock Desert, to low and big sagebrush/grass communities with intermingled mountain browse at upper elevations. Typical species in the salt desert shrub community include shadscale, bud sage, Bailey greasewood, black greasewood, Indian ricegrass, and squirreltail. Species in the low sagebrush community include low sage,



needlegrass, squirreltail and Sandberg bluegrass. Species typical of the sagebrush/grass and mountain browse communities include mountain big sagebrush, bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, aspen, snowberry, rabbitbrush, horsebrush, needlegrass, basin wildrye, squirreltail, Indian paintbrush, arrowleaf balsamroot, and phlox.

Herd Description

The appropriate management level (AML) for wild horses in the HMA is managed in a range from 200 to 333 head. Periodic removals are conducted to maintain the population within the management range. Horses within the HMA are descendants of ranch horses that either escaped or were released into the area. The majority of horses exhibit a bay, brown or sorrel color pattern; however, there are a number of paint, palomino and buckskin horses as well.



**Horses in the Calico Mountains
Herd Management Area**

